

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (New) A method for screening for compounds that promote binding of estrogen related receptor ligand 1 (ERRL1) to estrogen related receptor (ERR), which method comprises:

- (1) contacting cultured cells with a candidate compound, wherein said cultured cells express ERRL1 and ERR;
- (2) measuring the binding of ERRL1 to ERR in the presence of the candidate compound and in a control sample in the absence of said candidate compound;
- (3) identifying the candidate compound promoting binding of ERRL1 to ERR as compared to said control sample.

5. (New) The method of claim 4, wherein the cultured cells are obtained from an established human or non-human cell line; from tissue of a human or non-human animal body and appropriately maintained in a culture condition.

6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein the cultured cells are obtained from cells selected from the group consisting of: (1) adipocyte cells, (2) yeast cells; (3) bacterial cells; (4) cells transfected with ERRL1 cDNA and/or ERR cDNA; and (5) isolated animal cells, such as BAT, heart, skeletal muscle, or kidney, in which ERRL1 protein is highly expressed.

7. **(New)** A method for screening for compounds that increase the activity of estrogen related receptor (ERR) for expressing a medium-chain acyl CoA dehydrogenase (MCAD) gene, which method comprises:

(1) contacting cultured cells with a candidate compound, wherein said cultured cells express ERR;

(2) measuring the activity of ERR for expressing the MCAD gene in the presence of the candidate compound; and

(3) identifying the candidate compound increasing the activity for expressing the MCAD gene to the level the same as action of ERRL1 to ERR.

8. **(New)** The method of claim 7, wherein the cultured cells are obtained from an established human or non-human cell line; from tissue of a human or non-human animal body and appropriately maintained in a culture condition.

9. **(New)** The method of claim 8, wherein the cultured cells are obtained from cells selected from the group consisting of: (1) adipocyte cells, (2) yeast cells; (3) bacterial cells; (4) cells transfected with ERRL1 cDNA and/or ERR cDNA; and (5) isolated animal cells, such as BAT, heart, skeletal muscle, or kidney, in which ERRL1 protein is highly expressed.